

Massachusetts Health Quality Partners

Presentation to the MA Health Care Quality & Cost Council Transparency Committee

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Deliverables Included in Task 1 Report

- 1.A Review of Consultant's Work on Both Quality and Cost
- 1.B Measuring Disparities in Quality Gap Analysis
- 1.C Review Council's Existing Website: Measures and Display



Quality Measures

- Consultants examined measures
 - Currently on website
 - Displayed on other websites
- Scoring methods and benchmarks were examined to be
 - retained, or revised to reflect a 'best practice'
- Summary measure methodology



Cost and Utilization Measures

- Provider, payer, and consumer perspective on what cost means
- Strength and weakness assessment of QCC to other websites
 - Measures
 - Benchmarks
 - Databases
 - Commercial Data Analysis Tools and Warehouses
 - Databases
 - Claim Cost Groupers



Cost and Utilization Measures

- Recommendations and Conclusions
 - Key findings and recommendations
 - Implications for next step



Racial Ethnic Disparities in Care

- Initial focus is on quality measures currently reported on the Council's website
- Feasibility of stratification of hospital inpatient quality measures by race/ethnicity
 - Very limited at the hospital level and for smaller communities
 - Feasible for some conditions and procedures at regional level
- More opportunities to examine R/E disparities in outpatient care at the community level
 - Recommendations for outpatient quality measures will include analysis of disparities



Current Website Measures that Could Likely be Analyzed by R/E

- Pneumonia
 - Data may support comparisons
- Surgical Infection Rates
 - Rates for MA population should be large enough
- Surgical Infection Prevention -timely receipt/discontinuance of antibiotics
 - Sample sizes for analysis by Race/Ethnicity should be adequate for a large proportion of MA hospitals



Gap Analysis

 Note all gaps in quality and cost measures in current plan

 List all currently publicly reported measures that might fill this gap to assess at a later point in the project



Review of QCC Website Display

Reviewed over 100 US and UK websites

 Established criteria for evaluation based on studies, our expertise and QCC's strategic direction

- Evaluation of current Website
 - What works well
 - What works less well



What works well



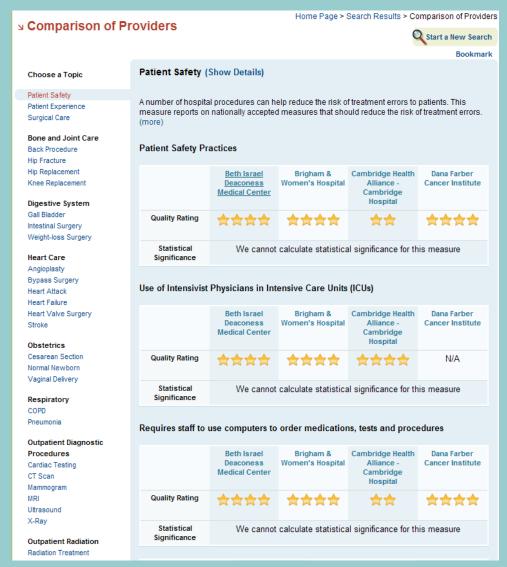
Welcome Page



Home Patients & Families About The Ratings Frequently Asked Questions Resources & Tools About Us

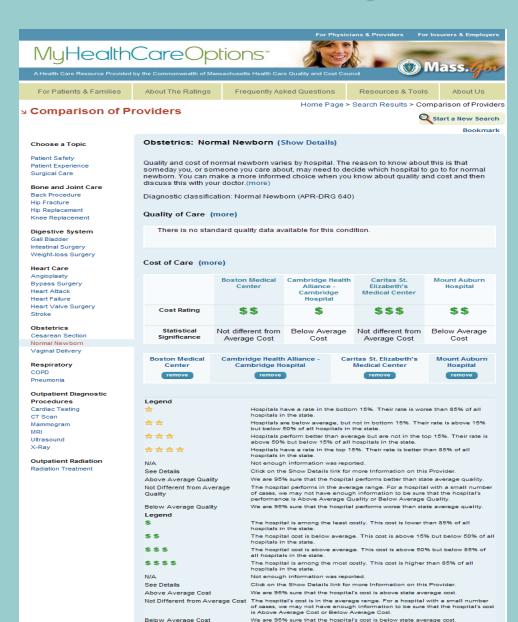


Level of information provided on measures and measure calculation is not found on many other sites





Content Design





Return to Search Results trusted information, quality insights,

Several Aspects of Reporting Work Well

- Use of paid claim data rather than billed charge data
 - provides a more meaningful basis for hospital comparisons, since charges, in many cases, can be significantly above actual payment levels for a procedure
- Explanation of statistical methods for calculations.
 - Important that it is there
 - Some potential for improvements in the wording to make the explanations more easily understood



Additional Areas that Work Well

- Risk-adjusted hospital comparisons permit more meaningful comparisons between hospitals
- Side-by-side comparison of data from selected hospitals aids in analyzing differences
- Minimum sample size of 30 cases before display of findings supports more appropriate, statistically-significant comparisons

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What works less well



Home Page Assumes Understanding of Quality and Cost Information

- Include a "What is quality" & a "What is cost" section as bulleted questions on homepage
 - hyperlink to more detail "What is quality?" and "What is cost?" questions in the FAQ section

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Add a question mark icon after "Find and compare quality and costs at MA hospitals" to lead user to "about the ratings", which can explain why cost and quality do not show for every measure

Site Needs Explanation of How to Use Data

- Add section specific to each measurement area on how to use data when talking to your doctor
- Add fact that this info is only a part of the picture of the value offered by each provider
- Explain and acknowledge that the responsibility may be shared
- Add links to sites that explain what the provider organization can do to improve its performance



Welcome Page Alternative



You, the consumer, play a key role in making decisions about hospital care. You can be an active and involved partner in your care — but you need information. That's where this site comes in. The Minnesota Hospital Quality Report provides information to help you evaluate the quality of care of hospitals in your area.

Welcome to the Minnesota Hospital Quality Report, a site with information by hospitals on quality of care and patients' experiences. Consumers can use this information to help make decisions about future hospital care. The site includes two different types of information:

1. How Hospitals Perform on Quality

This site gives you a snapshot of hospitals' performance in five key areas: heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, infection reporting and surgical care. Performance is displayed through "quality of care" measures. These measures describe how often certain practices of care have been followed.

Another way to look at performance is through the Appropriate Care Measure (ACM). A more patient-focused measure, the ACM shows whether a patient received ALL of the "appropriate or right care" (recommended treatments) that they should have received, based on their clinical condition. Each patient is unique and may not be eligible for every type of care for a condition. The ACM takes patient individuality into consideration, looking at one patient and their episode of care, related to their specific condition.

2. How Patients Rate their Care

For the first time, comparable ratings on patients' hospital experiences is publicly available. A national survey, completed by patients, measures the frequency of important aspects of care, such as communication with nurses and doctors as well as pain management.

Using quality information

It is worth noting that a hospital's quality is more than just the sum of these particular measures. Hospitals provide care for many other illnesses and conditions not addressed on this Web site. The information provided here can help you start a conversation with your health care providers about getting the care you, your family or friends need. Click here for information about other sources of information about hospital quality, and how you can put it to use.

To Start

Choose of these two options

One Hospital

To see the performance of a particular hospital

Compare Hospitals

To compare performance between hospitals



About the Rates Has Good Information But Not at Consumer Level

Consumer-Friendly Language







Pages with Only Cost Results Can Have Negative Consequences

- Consumers' misunderstanding of relationship between quality and cost
- To reduce negative impact, state on each page:
 - Higher costs do not necessarily represent better quality. In fact some research has shown that both high-cost and low-cost providers can give excellent health care and both high- and low-cost providers can give poor quality health care.



Details that Would Help Consumer in Making Decisions

- Add data on annual frequency a procedure is performed at each hospital
 - Utilization volume can be an important predictor of care quality as well as the reliability of the cost data presented.
- Add capability for users to enter their insurance information and receive a more precise cost estimate (long term)



Summary Scores can be Deceptive

- Be clear on what summary scores represent
- Provide details of how summary scores are created

 When quality stars are based solely on mortality rates, make that explicit on summary page



Relationship Between Symbols & Statistical Significance is Confusing

Cost of Care: Chest X-Ray (more)

	Hallmark Health Systems - Lawrence Memorial Hospital	Hallmark Health Systems - Melrose Wakefield Campus	Lahey Clinic	Winchester Hospital
Cost Rating	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$\$	\$\$\$
Statistical	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average

Bone and Joint Care: Hip Fracture (Show Details)

Hip fracture treatment quality and cost varies by hospital. The reason to know about this is that someday you, or someone you care about, may need to decide which hospital to go to for hip fracture treatment. You can make a more informed choice when you know about quality and cost and then discuss this with your doctor.(more)

Diagnostic classification: Hip Fracture (APR-DRG 308)

Quality of Care (more)

	Hallmark Health Systems - Lawrence Memorial Hospital	Hallmark Health Systems - Melrose Wakefield Campus	Lahey Clinic	Winchester Hospital
Quality Rating	章章	会会会	***	会会会
Statistical Significance	Not different from Average Quality	Not different from Average Quality	Not different from Average Quality	Not different from Average Quality

Heart Care: Heart Attack (Show Details)

Heart attack treatment quality and cost varies by hospital. The reason to know about this is that someday you, or someone you care about, may need to decide which hospital to go to for heart attack treatment. You can make a more informed choice when you know about quality and cost and then discuss this with your doctor.(more)

Diagnostic classification: Heart Attack (APR-DRG 190)

Quality of Care (more)

	Brigham & Women's Hospital	Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center	Massachusetts General Hospital	Mount Auburn Hospital
Quality Rating	☆☆☆☆	会会会	☆☆☆	☆☆☆
Statistical Significance	Above Average Quality	Above Average Quality	Above Average Quality	Not different from Average Quality

Cost of Care (more)

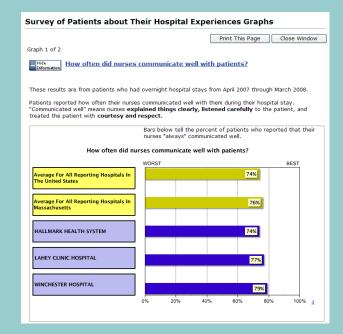
	Brigham & Women's Hospital	Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center	Massachusetts General Hospital	Mount Auburn Hospital
Cost Rating	Data is available from too few hospitals to assign dollar sign ratings. See details.			
Statistical Significance	Above Average Cost	N/A	Above Average Cost	N/A



Other Websites Use Symbols that are Easier to Understand

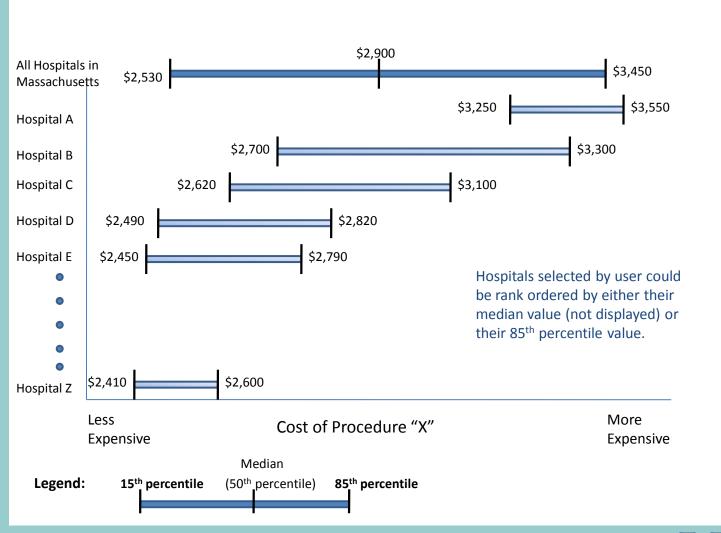








Potential Alternative Design for Costs





Detail Information is Hidden

Patient Experience (Show Details)

Health care should be patient-centered, which the Institute of Medicine defines as "providing care that is respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs, and values and ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions.(more)

Patient Experience

	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	Brigham & Women's Hospital	Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center	Mount Auburn Hospital
Quality Rating	***	***	☆☆☆	☆☆☆
Statistical Significance	We cannot calculate statistical significance for this measure			

Behind these stars is all this information

Patient Experience (Show Summary Ratings)

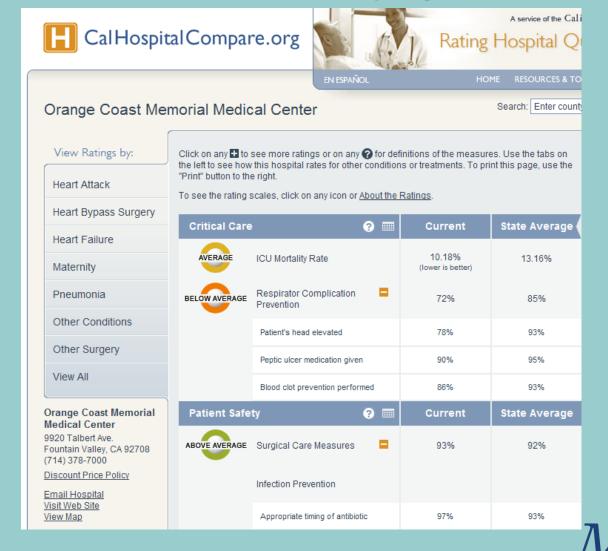
Health care should be patient-centered, which the Institute of Medicine defines as "providing care that is respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs, and values and ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions, (more)

Elizabeth's

atient Experience

	Deaconess Medical Center	Women's Hospital	Elizabeth's Medical Center	Hospital	Wide	
Quality Rating	***	素素素素	会会会	由由由		
Percentage of patients who gave the hospital the highest overall ratings (higher is better)	72%	77%	67%	66%	63%	
Percentage of patients who said doctors always communicated well with patients (higher is better)	76%	81%	79%	79%	79%	
Percentage of patients who said nurses always communicated well with patients (higher is better)	75%	79%	74%	74%	75%	
Percentage of patients who said they always received help quickly from hospital staff (higher is better)	55%	65%	58%	65%	59%	
Percentage of patients who said staff always explained about medicines before giving them to the patient (higher is better)	59%	60%	63%	62%	59%	
Percentage of patients who said their pain was well controlled (higher is better)	66%	72%	68%	70%	68%	
Percentage of patients who said the area around their room was quiet at night (higher is better)	52%	47%	47%	44%	48%	
Percentage of patients who said their rooms and bathrooms were kept clean (higher is better)	65%	65%	64%	68%	68%	
Percentage of patients who said they were given information about what to do during their recovery at home (higher is better)	86%	86%	86%	83%	83%	
Percentage of patients who would definitely recommend the hospital to friends and family (higher is better)	79%	83%	71%	73%	70%	
Data Provided by US Department of Health and Human Services Center for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS						

Other Websites Allow Users to Choose How Data is Displayed



MASSACHUSETTS

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Does Not Allow Creation of a Complete Report for a Hospital

 Users can only pull up one measure at a time, not a summary report

 Create a new page that summarizes data for one provider, with ability to convert summary sheet into a PDF or Excel file



Some of the Pages and Links Need Clearer Labels

- Change Comparison of Providers to Comparison of Hospitals Summary Page & Comparison of Hospitals Detail Page
- Enlarge link to "more" and label as "learn more about this condition"
- Insert phrase "change font size" next to font tool at top of page



Additional Label and Link Recommendations

- "Return to search results" likely to mean performance results to users rather than provider name results from zip code search
 - Change to "Return to the hospital selection page"
- "Start a new search" is as likely to mean asking about performance of the same providers in a new category as selecting new providers
 - Change to "Return to home page to look in different zip code range"
- Add "Return to comparison results", so users can get from a single hospital back to the three or four hospitals they were originally comparing



Examples for Improving Navigation

- Use explicit step-by-step navigation procedures
- Display links to Welcome Page and New Search more prominently
- Create a Home Tab at top of the page
- Add a "Previous page" and "Next page" link to every page
- Allow for search more than 20 miles from zip code
- Change "Search provider name" to "Search hospital name" so users won't put in MD's name
- Place return buttons at top and bottom of each page, given length of some pages that require a lot of scrolling



Format Issues

- Add print friendly option to avoid small, narrow output that cuts off sections from longer pages
- Redesign legend to include more white space
- Widen frame with less green on sides to decrease length of pages and scrolling

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Next Steps – Review Methodological Issues

- Statistics for comparing hospitals' paid claims-based costs (means v. medians)
- Using rankings, statistical significance or both on summary page
- Method to calculate summary score for quality
- Benchmarks
- Minimum sample sizes for reporting measures

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